Tax Credit Training

Since the beginning of the year, the tax credit staff has provided training and information to various groups about the benefits and requirements of the tax credit program. Interest in this program continues to grow, particularly as homeowners and smaller developers learn about it.

In January, members of the Clarke County Architectural Review Board and local government representatives were eager to learn more about properties eligible for the program and rehabilitation work that qualifies for the credit. During a presentation by DHR staff, board members expressed their support for the tax credits and appreciation for how rehabilitation projects are benefiting their communities.

Staff members also made a presentation to the 40 members of the Shenandoah Heritage Foundation in Staunton. Many attendees were unfamiliar with the tax credit program and seemed eager to learn about property eligibility requirements and how to apply for tax credits. Other attendees were not only familiar with the program, but had successfully completed projects and shared their experiences with the group. A reception following the program allowed attendees to follow up with individual questions.

Similarly, in May the tax credit staff spoke to 20 members of the Association for the Preservation of Henrico Antiquities about historic preservation easements and tax credits.

On May 22, the Orange Downtown Alliance held a one-day conference, cosponsored by DHR, in the town of Orange. Called *Living Towns Orange: Exploring our Heritage on the Constitutional Highway*, the conference was very well attended by about 50 people, including local government officials, representatives from Virginia Main Street communities, and other community stakeholders. Participants focused on heritage tourism, transportation corridor management, and town character and livability. As a part of the session on town character and livability, DHR staff members made presentations on historic districts and tax credits. A memorable part of the program was a walking tour of Orange, complete with costumed characters from the town's history who shared their historical memories and experiences with conference participants.

At the invitation of HOME (Housing Opportunities Made Equal) in Richmond, DHR staff spoke to the East District Initiative planning committee in June. Also on the program was a representative of the Virginia Community Development Corporation who spoke about low-income housing tax credits. This program is often combined with the rehabilitation tax credit program to leverage private development dollars for substantial public benefit.